

BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE



ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the

Public Health Services
1948

A. J. MUIR, M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

W. A. SHARP, M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of High Wycombe

Gentlemen,

I submit my fifth annual report on the Public Health Services of the Borough.

The year 1948 was noteworthy for the coming into force (on the 5th July) of the National Health Service Act, 1948. Under the provisions of the Act the Borough Council lost all its functions as a Maternity and Child Welfare Authority — this responsibility passing to the County Council as Health Authority. In addition control of the Municipal Maternity Home and of Booker Isolation Hospital was vested in the Regional Hospital Board.

Personal Health Services are therefore no longer the concern of the Borough Council who are now left with the control of the environmental or sanitary services with which in future the annual report will be mainly concerned.

Wycombe Borough provided Health Services which compared favourably with any in the country and it is a matter of regret that control over them should have been lost. However, what has been done cannot be undone and it behoves all who are intimately concerned with the personal Health Services to work amicably together for their betterment.

One of the county areas with a population of 133,000 has been based on Wycombe and is administered by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. R. Avery, Chairman of the former Wycombe Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The change over took place smoothly and so far there has been no difficulty encountered and none is anticipated.

During the year 1948 there were 728 live births giving a birth rate of 17.94 per 1,000 of the resident population. This is 92 fewer births than in the previous year — a reduction which was anticipated.

There were 347 deaths, 100 fewer than in 1947. The main causes of death were heart disease and cancer, the former accounting for 82 and the latter for 64 deaths. Tuberculosis caused 16 deaths, a reduction of 6 on the previous year, although during the year in question 34 new cases were notified compared with 24 the year before. There therefore is the possibility that the deaths will increase in the immediate subsequent years.

For the second year in succession not one case of diphtheria was notified. The success of diphtheria immunisation has been one of the most encouraging features of public health work during the last decade. What a boon it would be if the same results could be obtained in tuberculosis prevention. Cancer is a great evil but it generally attacks people past the prime of life; tuberculosis on the other hand attacks the young adult who should have many years of useful work in front of him.

An infant mortality rate of 21.83 per 1,000 compares very favourably with the figure of 34 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole. When one considers that in the quinquennial period 1901-1905 inclusive the average infant mortality rate in Wycombe was 125.3 per 1,000 live births one realises the progress that has been made. Instead of one child in eight dying before reaching one year of age, only one in fifty does so now. The early years of this century may in some respects have been the "good old days," but not so far as young babies were concerned. Not only did a high proportion of infants die but of those who survived, many, as a result of early malnutrition, showed defects which remained with them all their lives.

There was no important outbreak of infectious disease during the year although there were cases of the commoner infections occurring throughout the period in question.

In the last report which deals with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services I thank the Nursing and Clerical staff for their co-operation during the time they were employed by this Authority. A special meed of praise is due to all the voluntary workers who assisted at the various welfare clinics. I am glad that they are continuing to assist at what are now "County" Clinics.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. MUIR

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Health Centre,
High Wycombe,
November, 1949.

SECTION I

Statistics :

Area	...	...	...	...	...	7,091 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...					40,580
Number of dwelling-houses	...	...	...			10,973
Rateable value as at 1/4/48	...	...	...			£333,349
Product of a Penny Rate (Actual 1947/48)	...					£1,317

Rainfall :

Pann Mill, Easton Street	...	...	...	31.47 ins.
Widdenton Park, Lane End	...	...	...	32.06 ins.

Summary of Vital Statistics:

Live Births:	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	687	353	334	
Illegitimate	41	17	24	
	—	—	—	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Total Births	728	370	358	—17.94
	—	—	—	
Still Births	18	9	9	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—24.1
Deaths	347	179	168	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —8.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age :

Total Number of Deaths	15
Death Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	20.62
Number of legitimate infant deaths	15
Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.83
No. of illegitimate infants' deaths	Nil
Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	64
Measles (all ages)	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Total Tuberculosis Deaths (all cases)	16
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)	0.39
Total Deaths—Respiratory Tuberculosis	15
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.37
Total Deaths—Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.02
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.06

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death :

	1947		1948	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .	—	1	—	—
2 Measles	—	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
6 Influenza	5	4	—	1
7 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—
8 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	10	11	9	6
9 Other Tuberculous diseases	—	1	1	—
10 Syphilitic Diseases	4	1	2	—
11 General Paralysis of the insane tabes dorsalis	—	—	—	—
12 Cancer, malignant disease	33	38	31	33
13 Diabetes	1	5	2	4
14 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	13	23	14	24
15 Heart Disease	51	52	46	36
16 Other circulatory diseases	7	12	3	7
17 Bronchitis	15	13	11	9
18 Pneumonia (all forms)	15	7	13	3
19 Other respiratory diseases	8	1	2	5
20 Peptic Ulcer	4	2	4	—
21 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	—	1	—
22 Appendicitis	—	—	—	—
23 Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—	—	1
24 Other digestive diseases	5	5	3	5

		1947		1948	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
25	Acute and chronic nephritis ...	10	10	11	6
26	Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—	—
27	Other Puerperal causes	—	1	—	—
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ...	12	7	5	5
29	Suicide	3	3	2	2
30	Other deaths from violence ...	6	5	2	3
31	Other defined diseases	23	28	15	18
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—	—	—
33	Road traffic accidents			1	—
34	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephelitis			1	—
All causes		<u>226</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>168</u>

Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year, 1948.

	Rate per 1,000 total population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live-Births	Still-Births	All causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths under 1 year		
England and Wales	17.9	0.42	10.8	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.51	0.03	0.01	0.41	3.3	34		
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.0	0.52	11.6	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.59	0.03	0.01	0.38	4.5	39		
148 Smaller Towns (estimated resident populations 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	19.2	0.43	10.7	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.46	0.04	0.01	0.36	2.1	32		
High Wycombe	17.94	0.44	8.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.02	0.02	0.39	0.02	20.62		

	Puerperal sepsis	Other	Total
The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales (per 1,000 Total Births)	0.16	0.86	1.02
The Maternal Mortality Rates for High Wycombe (per 1,000 Total Births)	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals.

These are as described in previous reports.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

This is undertaken by the Local Nursing Association who employ Queen's Nurses—two of whom are engaged on general nursing work and three on midwifery.

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The headquarters are at the Municipal Offices. Infectious cases are conveyed by the Fever Hospital Ambulance.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

*(a) Provided by the Local Council.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic	Municipal Health Centre. Wednesdays, 10—12 noon, 2—4 p.m. Fridays, 10—12 noon.
Women's Advisory Clinic	Municipal Health Centre, Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.
Infant Welfare Centres	Municipal Health Centre, Dyke Meadow, Tuesdays and Fridays, 2—4 p.m. Methodist Schoolroom, Chapel Lane, Sands. Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m. Methodist Schoolroom, West Wycombe, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m. Turner's Sports Pavilion, Totteridge, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 2—4 p.m. St. Anne's Church Hall, Wycombe Marsh. Every Thursday, 2—4 p.m. St. Birinus' Church Hall, Booker. Every Tuesday, 2—4 p.m. Daws Hill Estate. Alternate Mondays, 2—4 p.m.

* Transferred to Bucks County Council on 5/7/48.

†(b) Administered by Bucks County Council.

Tuberculosis Clinic	49a Frogmoor. Fridays, 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
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Venereal Diseases Clinic 49a Frogmoor

Mondays, 3—4 p.m. Males

Mondays, 2—3 p.m. Females

Thursdays, 5.30—6.30 p.m. Females

Thursdays, 6.30—7.30 p.m. Males

Dr. Korn is in attendance.

† Transferred to Regional Hospital Board on 5/7/48.

Laboratory Facilities.

Facilities are provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford.

SECTION III

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The following Clinics originally administered by the Borough were transferred to the Bucks County Council on 5/7/48:

Sunlight Clinic.—Children under school age.

Dental Clinic.—Nursing and Expectant Mothers and children under school age.

Ophthalmic Clinic.—Children under school age.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.—Children under school age.

Infantile Mortality.

The following table gives the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for High Wycombe and England and Wales for the last ten years:—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
England and Wales	50	55	59	49	49	46	46	43	41	34
High Wycombe ...	40.3	50.6	31.5	35.6	24.6	34.7	31.9	14.9	28.05	20.62

Infantile Mortality.

Fifteen infants under the age of twelve months died during 1948, giving an infantile mortality rate of 20.62 per 1,000 live births.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASE

(a) Notifiable Diseases.

The table on the following page gives the number of cases during the year.

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The antigen used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid. The first dose was 0.2 c.c. and the second 0.5 c.c. was given a month later.

It is estimated that 59 per cent. of all children in the Borough under five years of age are immunised and 85 per cent. of all school children.

(c) Scabies.

Six children under school age, 19 school children, and 31 adults were treated.

(d) Isolation Hospital.

All cases of infectious disease needing hospital treatment are sent to the Booker Isolation Hospital, which was run by the Wycombe and District Joint Hospital Board until 5/7/48 when it was transferred to the Regional Hospital Board.

The number of patients admitted and discharged from the Isolation Hospital from the Borough during 1948 is set out in the following table:—

Disease	Remaining 31st Dec. 1947	Admitted during 1948	Discharged during 1948	Died during 1948	Remaining 31st Dec. 1948
Scarlet Fever ...	8	29	36	—	1
Whooping Cough .	3	3	6	—	—
Croup ...	—	1	1	—	—
Diphtheria (Negative) ...	—	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	—	4	4	—	—
Laryngitis ...	—	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	3	3	—	—
(To Oxford)					
Poliomyelitis (Not Confirmed) ...	—	4	4	—	—
Meningitis (Not Confirmed) ...	—	2	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	3	3	—	—
Phlebitis ...	—	1	1	—	—
Otitis Media ...	—	1	1	—	—
Totals ...	11	53	63	—	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE FOR 1948.

Disease		Total cases Notified	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25 and over
Smallpox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	43	—	5	6	14	16	1	1
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Para-typhoid	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	3	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	2
Measles	...	55	3	7	26	15	3	—	1
Whooping Cough	...	22	3	2	12	5	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	47	—	—	—	2	4	10	31
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	7	—	—	—	2	1	1	3
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	6	—	—	—	—	4	2	—
		199	9	17	45	38	29	16	45

SECTION V.

Tuberculosis.

The tuberculosis service is administered by the County Council. A Clinic is held weekly on Friday mornings at the County Clinic at Frogmoor.

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in High Wycombe in 1948:—

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
No. on Register on 1st January, 1948	92	81	173	38	35	73	246
No. first notified during 1948 ...	20	10	30	2	2	4	34
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification ...	12	5	17	2	1	3	20
No. removed from Register during 1948:—							
(a) Died	9	6	15	1	—	1	16
(b) Removed from District	4	1	5	—	—	—	5
(c) De-notified	5	3	8	6	5	11	19
No. remaining on Register, 31/12/48	106	86	192	35	33	68	260

The number of new cases and the number of deaths notified during 1948 are given in detail in the following table:—

Age Period		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10		2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15		3	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
15—20		3	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
20—25		2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35		6	8	1	1	3	2	1	—
35—45		11	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—55		2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65		2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and over		1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals		32	15	4	3	9	6	1	—

SECTION VI

Prevention of Blindness.

During 1948 three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified. An agreement was in force with the Oxford Eye Hospital whereby they took any cases of ophthalmia neonatorum needing hospital treatment, provided they had accommodation. During the year no cases were so admitted.

SECTION VII

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year 1948

Municipal Offices,
High Wycombe.

November, 1949

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN
and
COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1948 and in doing so I would thank you for the consideration I have received from you during the year.

The coming into being of the new Health legislation has not, as anticipated, lessened the duties of the department, the reverse is actually the case. The additional duties have been absorbed in the general administration.

Routine Housing inspections have not been carried out during the year but every endeavour has been made to remedy the more serious defects found and liable to be prejudicial to health. It is to be hoped that some guidance will soon be forthcoming as to the policy to be adopted in connection with houses which are no longer able to be repaired at a reasonable cost. It is possible that the increased number of houses being built will allow your officers to consider a more practical procedure with this class of property in the near future.

I would tender my sincere thanks to the staff for their continued loyalty and enthusiasm and to all the officials for their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. SHARP,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

1948

Infectious Diseases.

Visits Paid	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

Disinfection of Rooms.

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	20
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	21
Non-notifiable Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5

Disinfection—Bedding.**Disinfected Destroyed**

From Private Houses—No. of Articles	623	36
Other articles removed on request and for which payment was made:—		
(a) Neighbouring Authorities	86	
(b) Private Firms, etc.	53	

Infectious Diseases.

It is pleasing to report that the number of visits in connection with Infectious Diseases continues to diminish. This is in the main due to the continued practice of not carrying out disinfection in cases of Scarlet Fever. The normal practice now is that an inspection is carried out in every case and action is taken according to the circumstances. Disinfection is carried out only where the bedroom has to be continually occupied and where a thorough cleansing of the room by the occupants cannot be carried out because of re-occupation of the room in question. Where disinfection is not carried out by the department, a small quantity of disinfectant is left, together with appropriate instructions. Disinfection is, however, carried out where other young children are on the premises. In no case has a second notification been received from the same premises. It would therefore appear that the methods adopted are successful.

Disinfestation.

	No. of Houses	No. of Rooms	2nd Treatments
Eradication of Bed Bug			
Private Houses	16	55	13
Council Houses	7	14	—
Hospitals, Institutions, etc.	1	6	—
Flies, Cockroaches	23	—	—

Verminous Premises and the Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Since the adoption of the use of solutions containing a percentage of D.D.T., it is very noticeable that certain premises which were continually being reported as infested with the Bed Bug have no longer required treatment. This may be due to the fact that overcrowding is now not so noticeable or to the solutions used. Whatever the reason, the number of cases where premises have to be treated is considerably less than it was in former years. Every encouragement is given to tenants of houses infested with Bugs to notify the Department and where it is considered necessary, treatment is carried out with as little publicity as possible or instructions and materials are given to the occupiers to carry out the treatment themselves.

WATER SUPPLY :

A full description of the water supply was given in the report for 1947.

The quality and quantity of the water supply has been satisfactory throughout the year. Twenty-six samples of piped water from the main supply were taken and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. The supply proved to be consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. Six samples of water from other sources were submitted for the same examinations and were found to be satisfactory. The water of the mains supply is not liable to plumbo-solvency.

Statistics.

	No. of Houses piped supply	No. of Houses by standpipe	Estimated population served
Borough of High Wycombe Supplied by Corporation works to places outside area of the Borough ...	10,873	21	44,500
	1,320	63	5,500

MILK SUPPLY :

Raw Milk Supply.

It is anticipated that new legislation with regard to the production and sale of milk will soon be in force. It is to be hoped, however, that when such legislation is placed on the Statute Book it will contain some provision for the control of the standard of Raw Milk as supplied to the consumer. At present there is no standard for the cleanliness of this class of milk and complaints received are in the main concerned with undesignated milks and although action, when necessary, is taken, it is impossible to trace the source of the milk except on the few occasions when it is produced locally. The sale of raw milk is a source of continued concern to your officers, but everything is being done to ensure that it is of the highest standard of cleanliness.

Milk Special Designations.

The routine sampling of designated milk has given a regular check on the quality and cleanliness and whether such milk conforms to the standard applicable to its special designation.

The figures as set out are very satisfactory and in every case where samples failed the particular test for the designation concerned, the matter was immediately taken up with the producer and with the Authority in whose area the milk was produced. Such failures to comply with the standard have been only of a temporary character and a satisfactory reason has been forthcoming in each case.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Licences granted by the Town Council under the above Order, during 1948, were:—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested (Bottling)	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary)	...	...	...	...	...	10

Results of Samples Taken.

			Results	
			No. of Samples taken	Not Satisfactory
Pasteurised	...	...	18	—
Pasteurised (School)	...	...	6	—
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	79	9
Totals			103	9

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION :**Meat Inspection.**

Every endeavour has been made to maintain a 100% inspection of carcasses slaughtered at the Ministry of Food Controlled Slaughterhouse. This has meant your officers who carry out the work of Meat Inspection being on duty after normal hours. It is a service that every local authority must maintain, and the extra duties cannot be avoided under present conditions. The quality of the animals slaughtered has not improved during the period under review, the main cause of condemnation being tuberculosis. This is found principally in cows and is probably due to the fact that more cows are finding their way into the slaughterhouse. Where a cow is totally condemned the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries is immediately notified and given all available particulars in order that a veterinary examination of the herd may be carried out at the farm.

Casualty Animals.

Animals which are either sick or have met with some accident are sent to the slaughterhouse with the hope that after inspection they may be used for human consumption. This practice is on the increase and the condition of some animals which arrive at the slaughterhouse as "casualties" is such that they should never be allowed to be sent to a slaughterhouse, but should go straight to a Knacker's Yard. Whatever care is taken, cruelty cannot be avoided in loading, transporting to the slaughterhouse and subsequent unloading. There is, of course, always the danger of contamination of premises and of the products of the slaughterhouse. In many cases the animal is practically dead on arrival.

Premises.

No material alteration has taken place at the slaughterhouse and it cannot be said that the present premises are satisfactory.

Inspection of Other Foods.

The inspection of foods, other than meat, continues to be a major duty, and many and varied are the types of food on which an opinion has been given as to whether such article of food is fit for human consumption. The advice of your officers is frequently sought on occasions of doubt. This is particularly indicated by the variety of kinds of food set out in the appropriate table. Extensive routine work is done in the inspection of food stores, shops, etc., and the inspection of stocks on such routine inspections has not called

for any official action. Every care is taken to prevent contamination of stocks by those concerned and the class of other foods on sale in the shops has not shown any cause for complaint of any kind. The closest co-operation is maintained between the department and trade organisations. New and potential legislation has been discussed and advice given on any queries that have arisen.

Slaughter of Animals.

The total number of animals slaughtered at the Government Controlled Slaughterhouse during 1948 was:—

Oxen	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,392
Cows	...	...	...	...	...	...	307
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,604
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,765
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Total ...							<u>7,090</u>

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	1,392	307	1,604	3,765	22
Non-Tuberculosis :					
Whole Carcases condemned .	5	5	9	34	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .	498	98	—	105	4
Percentage of the number killed affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	36.13	33.55	0.56	3.67	22.72
Tuberculosis Only :					
Whole Carcases condemned .	4	5	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .	167	37	—	—	—
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuber- culosis	12.28	13.68	—	—	—

The weight of condemned meat and offal for the year 1948 was as follows:—

Beef in Carcase ...	...	...	...	...	9,724	lbs.
Beef not in Carcase	...	...	...	...	3,808½	„
Imported Beef ...	...	...	...	...	3,110	„
Mutton in Carcase	...	...	...	...	212	„
Mutton not in Carcase	...	...	...	...	99	„
Imported Mutton	...	...	...	...	36	„
Pork and Pigmeat	...	...	...	...	34	„
Offals ...	...	...	...	...	13,225	„
Total ...					<u>30,248½</u>	„

30,248½ lbs.=13 tons, 10 cwts., 8½ lbs.

Table Showing Condemned Organs of Animals.

	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Skirts	Livers	Spleens	Tripes	Cauls	Intestines	Mesenteries	Kidneys	Uteri	Bones	Udders	Tails	Totals
CATTLE																	
Tuberculosis	78	141	145	18	16	35	17	19	14	14	20	14	9	13	10	12	575
Abscess	1	1	5	2	3	17	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	34
Actinomycosis	16	19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	47
Anaemia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cancer	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cav. Angioma	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	—	89	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	89
Cystic	—	1	14	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Decomposition	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Distoma Hepaticum	—	—	—	—	—	451	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	451
Echinococcus	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Emaciation	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	67
Fatty Infiltration	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fevered	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	48
Haemorrhage	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
Immature	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	—	4	—	4	61
Inflammation	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Jaundice	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	14
Joint Ill	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	2	—	2	28
Mastitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Moribund	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	14
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Necrosis	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Pericarditis	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	16
Peritonitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Septic	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	10
Tenuicollis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
SHEEP																	
Abscess	—	—	3	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Cystic	—	—	1	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Distoma Hepaticum	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Emaciation	3	3	3	3	—	3	3	—	—	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	27
Fevered	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	9
Moribund	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	9
Pneumonia	—	—	6	4	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Strongilosis	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Tenuicollis	—	—	—	—	—	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38
PIGS																	
Bruised	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pericarditis	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cystic	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	121	185	207	55	36	776	50	41	31	37	42	38	15	30	29	30	1723

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following samples were submitted to the Public Analyst with the results shown:—

Article Sampled	How Sampled		Result	
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Arrowroot	1	—	1	—
Aspirin	1	—	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	2	—	2	—
Butter	6	—	6	—
Castor Oil	1	—	1	—
Chocolate Cup	1	—	1	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—	1	—
Colouring	—	1	1	—
Cooking Oils and Fats	9	1	10	—
Chitterlings	1	—	1	—
Cordials, Squashes, etc.	10	—	10	—
Coffee Extract	1	—	1	—
Faggots	1	—	1	—
Gelatine	2	—	2	—
Herbs	1	—	1	—
Jelly Crystals	1	—	1	—
Liver Sausage	1	—	1	—
Lemon Curd	1	—	1	—
Liquid Paraffin	1	—	1	—
Milks	64	—	64	—
Mixtures (Puddings)	2	—	2	—
Mustard	2	—	2	—
Matte	1	—	1	—
Margarine	4	—	4	—
Meat Tenderiser	3	—	1	1 (1 broken)
Onion Powder	1	—	1	—
Olive Oil	2	—	2	—
Ointments	4	—	4	—
Peel	1	—	1	—
Pepper	6	—	4	2
Potato Powder	1	—	1	—
Paste	3	—	3	—
Pickles, etc.	3	—	3	—
Sweet Confectionery	1	—	—	1
Sweets	12	—	12	—
Spread	1	—	1	—
Sauces, etc.	9	3	9	1 (2 broken)
Sausage, Salami	1	—	1	—
Sausages, Beef	4	1	5	—
Savouries, Pasties, etc.	4	—	4	—
Salts, Epsom & Glauber	4	—	4	—
Spix	1	—	1	—
Semolina	1	—	1	—
Salad Cream	1	1	—	2
Salad Dressing	1	—	1	—
Soups	2	—	2	—
Vinegar	4	—	4	—
White Pudding	1	—	1	—
Whalemeat	4	—	4	—
Wines	6	—	6	—
Total	197	7	194	7 (3 broken)

In connection with the 64 samples of milk, a similar portion of the milk concerned in each case was taken for informal testing in the department's laboratory. As these proved to be satisfactory the third portions of the formal samples were not submitted to the Public Analyst, thereby saving the fee for analysis.

Four other samples of milk were tested in the laboratory for use in a demonstration to nurses, and eight from schools used for the Olympic Games personnel.

Other Foodstuffs Condemned.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year ended 31st December, 1948:—

Beans, 71 tins.	Luncheon Meat, $6\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Bacon, 14 tins.	Livers (Lamb), frozen, 189 lbs.
Bacon, fresh, $20\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Loaves, 95.
Black Pudding, 12 lbs.	Lard, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Butter, $3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Milk, 399 tins.
Bisto, 4 pkts.	Meat, 187 tins.
Brawn, 3 lbs. 10 oz.	Master Mix, 43 pkts.
Biscuits, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Macaroni, 28 lbs.
Corn on Cob, 4 tins.	Margarine, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Chocolate Wafers, 6.	Ovaltine, 1 tin.
Chili Con Carne (6 lb. 8 oz.), 48 tins.	Oats, 7 lbs.
Corned Beef (12 oz.), 18 tins.	Olive Oil, 1 bottle.
Corned Beef (6 lb.), 80 tins.	Peas/Beans, 168 tins.
Corned Mutton (12 oz.), 2 tins.	Preserves (tins and jars), 72.
Corned Mutton (6 lb.), 5 tins.	Pickles (bottles and jars), 32.
Curry Powder, 1 jar.	Peanut Butter, 1 lb.
Cheese, $18\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Prunes, 106 lbs.
Cheese, 2 tins.	Pudding Mixtures, 4 pkts.
Cheese (foreign), 29 pkts.	Rabbit (tins), 4 tins.
Cod Roe Paste, 1 tin.	Relish, 1 jar.
Cereal, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Stew, 1 tin.
Chocolate Spread, 1 jar.	Sausages, 7 tins.
Coffee, 2 tins.	Soups, 130 tins.
Cake (fruit), 1 lb.	Sauce, 10 bottles.
Dates (8 oz. pkts.), 11 pkts.	Sweets and Chocolates, $34\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Eggs, 222.	Swiss Rolls, 152.
Eggs, tins/pkts., 15.	Salad Cream and Dressing, 3 bottles.
Fish (tins), 192 tins.	Suet, 8 ozs.
Fish (wet), 65 stone.	Sugar, 3 lbs.
Fish Cakes, 377.	Turkey, 1 at $9\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Flour, 27 lbs.	Tripe, 96 lbs.
Guinea Fowl, 7 lbs.	Vitacup, 1 tin.
Haslet Meat, $60\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Vegetables, 216 tins.
White Pudding, 12 lbs.	Yeast, 21 lbs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938:**Ice Cream Sampling.**

Thirty-seven (37) samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year, six were delayed in transit, the results of the others were as follows:—

Provisional Grade 1	...	...	...	...	5
Provisional Grade 2	...	...	...	...	10
Provisional Grade 3	...	...	...	...	13
Provisional Grade 4	...	...	...	...	2

One sample was not graded as it was a coloured sample and it was not possible to carry out the Methylene Blue Test. The lowest bacteriological count was 500 and the highest 465,000.

In each case where Grade 4 was shown an improvement has been effected in the quality and further samples were higher graded.

Fifteen were below 100,000 bacteria count which was originally the test for T.T. Milk.

Samples included Ice Cream sold in Wycombe Market, and all samples manufactured in the Borough were of a higher standard than Grade 4.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938:**Sampling.**

The systematic taking of samples of Food and Drugs has covered a wide range of goods. The Analyst's reports revealed some very useful information, and a short report on the facts and the reasons why legal proceedings were not taken on "non-genuine" samples are included for information.

Zinc Ointment.

The sample showed slight excess of Zinc Oxide. On investigation of the facts the firm concerned explained the process of manufacture and suggested that the excess was due to mechanical devices having been slightly incorrectly operated.

Opinion was that the excess was not sufficient to cause any ill effects in its use.

Tomato Sauce.

The report on this sample showed an excess of Copper on the dry matter to the extent of 87 parts per million. The investigations into this involved much correspondence with the firm concerned, the Analysts, the Ministry of Food, and the Port of London Health Authority.

It appeared that some controversy existed over the amount of copper to be allowed and further, that the raw product, which no doubt gained its contamination through deterioration of the tomato processing plant in Italy, was not analysed by the Ministry of Food who were the importers of the particular consignment.

From the weight of information and knowledge gained it was felt to be both unfair and unwise to take any further proceedings.

Salad Cream.

A sample of Salad Cream showed a deficiency of egg yolk solids to the extent of 54 per cent. The origin of this Salad Cream was Dutch and the investigations again led to lengthy correspondence between the Agent concerned, the Importers, the Public Analyst and the Ministry of Food. This in turn led to investigations on the question of decomposition of egg yolk solids, and experiments were carried out by Analysts in Holland, the Society of Public Analysts in this country and the British Food Manufacturers' Industries' Research Association. No agreement was reached by all parties on the correct method of analysis and, in fact, the matter is still under review.

Sweet Confectionery.

The report on this sample showed the article to be of poor quality and the contents to be nothing more than puffed wheat dipped in a sugar solution and dried. Investigations were made and due to the facts of the case the vendor was given a caution.

Legal Proceedings for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

Acts, Orders and Regulations under which Proceedings were taken	Default or Offence	Result	Fines
Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940, Reg. 4, and Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Section 101.	Sale of P.P. Meat Tenderiser which contained an added preservative	Conviction	Fine £3 Costs £8 8s.
Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 3 & 83 (3).	Sale of Pepper not of the substance of the article demanded (2 cases)	Dismissed under the Probation of Offenders' Act	Total Costs £6 2s.
Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1928.	Unlawfully selling Flock which did not conform to the standards of cleanliness laid down	Conviction	Fine £5 Costs £7 7s.
Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1928.	Unlawfully selling Flock which did not conform to the standards of cleanliness laid down	Conviction	Fine £20 Costs 7 gns.
Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1928.	Unlawfully selling Flock which did not conform to the standards of cleanliness laid down	Conviction	Fine £5 Costs 7 gns.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The inspections of factories has been carried out during the year, and I set out details below:—

Statistics :

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	347
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	21
Number of complaints received from H.M.					
Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Fire Certificates issued	...	...	...	...	11

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.**Infestation Order, 1943.**

A full time Rodent Operator has been employed on the work of Rats and Mice Destruction, whilst the Sanitary Inspectors have officiated where it has been necessary to overcome any question of Power of Entry.

Details regarding inspection and treatment are summarised below:—

Statistics :

Agreements: Current	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total complaints received (each complaint requiring a minimum of 6 visits for treatment)						228
being complaints as follows:						
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	36
Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	171
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	14
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	4
Not justified	...	...	...	...	...	3

Treatment was also carried out on the Borough Sewer system on two occasions during the year 1948, in January and June. The infestation of the sewer system was found to be very slight.

Sewage Disposal Works.

Treatment was periodically carried out on the whole of the area covered by the Sewage Disposal Works. Infestation was found to be slight.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911—1928.

The desirability of the closest co-operation between the users of Rag Flock and the department was instanced in the placing on the market of so called "Pulled New Waste." Large consignments were deposited under warranty on the premises of factors and users, and samples obtained showed a chlorine content of a varying degree over and above the statutory standard of 30 parts per 100,000. Proceedings in three instances had to be taken in connection with this class of material.

The manufacturers and suppliers were successfully convicted in each case.

The impression was conveyed that as this material was the product of "new material" it was quite satisfactory and would come well within the Rag Flock Acts and was bought in good faith. The results did not justify the impression given and great surprise and concern was shown when users were informed of the result of the analysis of samples taken.

In order that all users of Rag Flock within the Borough should be aware of the danger of using this material, the Secretary of the local Society of Manufacturers was notified.

In one instance the manufacturer of this material did carry out a process of washing and the results of a sample taken gave a chlorine content of less than 10 parts per 100,000.

Inquiries have indicated that the above class of Rag Flock is not now being sold or used within the Borough.

There is one Rag Flock factory within the district and samples taken have shown an average chlorine content of 10 parts per 100,000.

Details of samples of Rag Flock taken during the year, showing the chlorine content, are given below:—

3 samples contained less than				8 parts per 100,000			
6	"	"	"	10	"	"	"
1	"	"	"	12	"	"	"
12	"	"	"	15	"	"	"
4	"	"	"	20	"	"	"
1	"	"	"	62	"	"	"
1	"	"	"	64	"	"	"
1	"	"	"	71	"	"	"
1	"	"	"	96	"	"	"
1	"	"	"	110	"	"	"
1	"	"	"	139	"	"	"
1 sample was not Rag Flock within the meaning of the Act.							

33 Total

Note: For cases of Legal Proceedings under the Rag Flock Acts see Legal Proceedings. (Page 23).

HOUSING :

Temporary Housing Estates.

The temporary housing site at Daws Hill has been under regular supervision throughout the year. The attention of occupiers has had to be drawn on many occasions to actions liable to lead to a nuisance. These have in the main been cleared up and the estate has been run in a satisfactory manner having regard to the circumstances prevailing.

The Huts are now showing rapid signs of deterioration and it will be very satisfactory to all concerned in the management, maintenance and supervision of these properties when circumstances permit the clearance of the site.

BOROUGH MORTUARY.

The administration of the mortuary continues without complaint.

During the year a system of charges was instituted for users of the premises.

The charges were based on existing legislation and agreed to by the Coroner.

The mortuary building and equipment, although of modern character, are in need of renovation, and the installation of some form of a cold room will have to receive consideration in the near future.

THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 50.

This Act came into force on the 5th July, 1948.

Under Section 50 it is the responsibility of the local authority to bury any destitute person who dies or is found dead in the area. It was with some surprise that within a few hours of the Act coming into force the department was advised by the local office of the National Assistance Board that the body of such a person was awaiting burial.

Applications have been made from time to time for the burial of persons alleged to be destitute and the greatest care is taken in investigating the circumstances and verifying that such applications come within the purview of the Act.

It has been necessary to give assistance in three cases.

Applications are submitted on a standard form prepared by the Town Clerk.

SLIPPER BATHS.

A range of Slipper Baths was opened during the year. This was made possible by the adaptation of the former Gas Cleansing Station at Bellfield, and all works were done by the Borough Engineer's Department.

It was felt that such a service was required in the town, especially by those inhabitants who had no bathroom in their homes.

The premises are divided into two sections, the male section containing seven separated baths, and the female section also containing seven separated baths. Water is heated by an automatic oil burning plant which requires periodic attention only.

The Health Committee has authorised alterations in times of opening and reductions in the charges, in the light of experience and in the hope of encouraging greater use of the facilities offered. A reduction from one shilling to sixpence per bath for the period Mondays to Thursdays has not had the desired effect and the baths are not working to their full capacity during this period.

It was not possible in the first instance to provide soap and towels for use by bathers, and this may be the cause of the baths not being used as much as anticipated. Every endeavour is being made to obtain permission to supply soap and towels although it is felt that the cost of the latter may be prohibitive.

The baths, although an essential part of the public health service, are not patronised sufficiently to allow them to be run on an economic basis.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Table showing the number of inspections made during the year 1948:—

Accumulations, Ashes, etc.	40
Animals and Birds	64
Bakehouses	60
Butchers' Shops	347
Cowsheds	17
Disinfection Visits	1
Disinfestation Visits	5
Drains Cleared	52
Drainage Inspected	201
Drainage Tested	15
Entertainment Houses	22
Factories	347
Factory Canteens	26
Food Premises, Grocery Shops, etc	235
Food Preparing Premises	93
Fish Shops and Fried Fish Premises	87
Greengrocers, etc.	19
Housing under Public Health Act or Housing Act	946
Ice Cream Premises and Sampling	220
Infectious Disease	127
Interviews	549
Licensed Premises	30
Markets	239
Materials—Visits for issue of permits	54
Milk Shops and Dairies	314
Merchandise Marks Act	15
Overcrowding	48
Outworkers	3
Police Court Visits	17
Rag Flock	151
Rats and Mice (Inspector's visits)	156
Rats and Mice (Rodent Operator's visits) ...	1,368
Rats & Mice (Rodent Operator's visits on contracts)	677
Rats & Mice (Rodent Operator's visits on Sewers and block infestation)	142
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	77
Rivers, Watercourses, Ditches and Ponds	84
Sampling Visits Food and Drugs	271
Sampling Visits Water Supplies	36

Sampling Visits Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	37
Sampling Visits Milk (Bacteriological samples)	...	...	...	...	...	89
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	17
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	127
Slaughterhouse for Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	1,024
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	17
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	32
Stalls and Hawkers' Carts	...	...	...	...	...	875
Squatters' Camp	...	...	...	...	...	51
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	33
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	136
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	550
Total						<u>10,151</u>

